You probably missed the post on Monday. No worries, it happens. For parents who could not work it into their schedule, I got the Parent Handbook for 5th grade done for all our parents. It is mostly a reference, if you need to know how I grade a subject, you look under grades, and so on. You will be able to print it out. You are always welcome to ask questions on Viber.

Some additional notes to what is covered in the handbook.

While reading the handbook remember, this is only a reference. I am well aware that a student may have an ongoing struggle, that kids are kids, and that life happens, there is no way I am thinking you are dropping the ball as parents. You are awesome! We can direct message each other and make a plan for how to help a kid catch on if we see a major struggle in one area or no willingness to do classwork or homework.

However, our time is a limited resource. Let us be respectful of class time and the teacher's time for preparation and grading. Please make sure your child's schedule outside of school has enough time for completing learning assignments and reviews with a good balance of homework during the week and on the weekend if needed.

I am gentle with testing in the beginning. The first quiz/test in each subject is okay to retake for a higher grade, and I plan the time for it during class. We took Quiz 1 in Math 2nd time already. For Spelling, I am able to allow retakes for all irregular verbs (while the load for

spelling is lower than usual.) After that retakes only for absences/sickness or if we have made a plan with the parent for catch-on work and after I see all seatwork on that topic completed and signed by the parent. Retakes will be scheduled as I can find available time in our schedule or during Art class if the schedule is too packed.

Please do not hesitate to write a direct message with your question, I check Viber regularly after school. If we see low scores more than once in a while, or the same problem with homework repeatedly, I would like to contact you about that. If I contact you first, please remember that I am trying to see if we can work on it together, not point out an issue with you. If you contact me, I might be able to save you the trouble you are having in the future instances. No one is ideal, we cannot guarantee immediate excellent results, but in my experience, good change and growth happen if student, parents and the teacher work as a team.

One topic that we were supposed to discuss before we got pulled into other questions is additional supplies.

I will post the list with links for Amazon, I am very particular about the folders and math notebooks – I would like all students to have the same ones, I chose the quality that will last. We need the binders empty and ready to be separators for test taking as soon as possible. Everything else – if it is sold out, and you are purchasing from another seller, choose items same in size, quality and quantity.

Some notes from the meeting:

For field trips and holiday gifts planning – parent group is going to be open, just don't forget to let the teacher know (I do not see the parent group, the 5th grade class group only.)

If I did not respond to the message of an early pick up – no worries, just instruct the person picking up to come to get help in the office. Calling the office or walking in is totally fine. Just make sure you do not pick up the child without the teacher/office notified. It is best to call office with urgent questions.

Homework: The one-page spread out for homework was well-liked by parents, we will start with it next week. I will ask students not to work ahead in any subject, please remind them.

Spelling tests 1-4 are based on the Irregular Verbs, every student has a booklet print-out in their binder.

Russian papers will be bound in 2 booklets, one - a reading booklet, and the other writing assignments packet (which will cover 1 unit to go through in around 2 weeks). Grammar topics are taken from the same учебник, but the exercises have the content words from our reading stories. Russian reading and writing will be taught in connection to each other, graded as one subject. I have a very nice thicker larger composition notebook lined very close to Russian тетрадка, I have 1 for each student, we will try them out after we are done with this first ТЕТРАДЬ. If it works, I will ask you to purchase the next one for your child, it is about 5 to 6 dollars.

Math – homework is usually marked Review on the pages that I listed. Everything before it is classwork. If the student is slow in class they may finish at home.

Language – For now we start each section with expectation students finish off all sentences in class or at home.

Science/history/health – the bulk of reading happens at school. If your child is finishing a quiz /test page at home, it has the section for reading listed. The students usually remember pretty well where they have stopped reading.

If any questions – ask on viber, I check it regularly.

Just give me time to add some notes, since what we discussed in the meeting brought around new questions and a bit of changes to my initial plan.

We also took a look at my weekly homework page, and I got a really good response, I hope we will get used to the layout pretty quickly. We will start with it next week. I apologize for the fact I did not start using it sooner, I was trying a couple of other things and decided not to go with them before I found what I think would work for the class.

Дорогие родители! Я очень рада была познакомиться сегодня на Первом Звонке с некоторыми 5тиклассниками и их родителями. Я уверена, мы все пострепенно познакомимся. Завтра мы встретимся с классом уже в школе! Меня зовут Марина Александровна. У нас будет очень интересный год, мы развиваем воображение и смекалку, мы учимся работать в команде, мы представляем себе, что мы мореплаватели, и наша команда отправляется в воображаемое путешествие. Мы поплывем к далеким материкам и островам. Завтра – подготовка корабля к путешествию, мы должны проверить, кто что умеет в нашей команде. Мы еще должны убедиться готов ли наш корабль и погрузить на него все, что нужно. Учёбу пока начнем не по книжкам, а будем делать проект. Я буду из учитель и капитан, и хочу посмотреть в процессе как дети владеют каким языком, как пишут, как читают, чем интересуются. Вы можете прочитать это сообщение от меня со своим 5ти классником?

Dear parents! I was happy to meet some of my 5th graders and their parents at the First Bell Concert. I am looking forward to getting to know you all over time. Tomorrow I will see the students in the school building already! My name is Marina, students call me Marina Aleksandrovna. We are going to have a very adventurous year, we engage our imagination and creativity, we learn to work as a team. Our team is going in an imaginary journey. We are sailing to far continents and islands. Tomorrow we are getting our ship ready, we need to see, what talents we have in our team. We need to make sure

that our ship is ready and we need to load it. We will start learning already, but it will be not book worksheets and tests yet, we will work on a project. I will be their teacher and captain, I would like to see their level of language use in English as well as in Russian while they are working on something. Could you read this message from me together with your 5th grader? Great! I will see my team tomorrow!

Из важных объявлений:

У нас комната будет снова в здании где спортзал, я буду завтра встречать ребят рядом с офисом в 8:15 или в офисе их направят, если я буду занята с кем-то еще. На двери есть вывеска – класс и имя учителя.

Физкультура в понедельник и среду – завтра нет

Расписание поставлю вам обязательно, я помню об этом мне надо уточнить пару моментов.

Вы для меня новый класс, я пока не знаю кто кого как забирает, завтра мы вместе выйдем из здания в 3 часа, если есть особые инструкции сообщите через офис.

Завтра книги я выдавать не буду, выдам в понедельник. Домашнего задания на выходные не будет.

Кто не успел закупить список принадлежностей, принесёте в понедельник. Еще будут вещи которые я рекомендую и мы решим по ним на родительском собрании.

Нашу вайбер группу я установила, буду проверять регулярно и ставить вам объявления на двух языках, русский и английский.

Important announcements:

Our classroom is again in the building with the gym, I will be greeting my students tomorrow near the office starting 8:15, or if I am busy with someone else, people at the office will show them the door. There is a sign on the door 5th grade and my name.

Tomorrow no P.E., P.E. is Monday – Wednesday

I will post the schedule soon, make sure it is all good to go.

This is a new class for me, so I am unfamiliar with the pick up people. Tomorrow we will step out of the building together at 3 p.m. If there are special instructions let the office know, Rachel or Olga will tell me.

The books will go home on Monday, tomorrow no books, no homework

If you are behind on getting supplies on the list, no worries, bring it Monday. There will be some other items that I will recommend, we will talk about it at the parent meeting for our class.

I have access to our viber group now no problem, I will be checking it regularly after school between 3 and 6 pm. All announcements will be in Russian and English.

I am planning to have a parent meeting for our class in the next couple weeks. I will post more info on Friday

Основное правило – по делам класса пишем в общую вайбер группу, по делам ребёнка – только личные сообщения.

Вопросы на вайбере я проверяю по возможности каждый день после уроков. Если я не ответила с 3х до 5ти в тот же день, значит пропустила, пожалуйста напишите еще раз, я буду только рада, что вы мне напомнили. Если вы написали после 5ти, я могу ответить только если я все еще в школе. Либо я напишу ответ на следующий день.

Звонки я принимать не смогу. Если что-то срочное звоните, пожалуйста, в офис. Если не срочное, можно написать в личное сообщение или мы может назначить встречу и всё обсудить.

У меня не было возможности решить что будет в списке принадлежностей supply list, там отмечено только основное. Если вы купили – отлично! Если нет, вы можете ещё принести всё в понедельник. Я посмотрю как лучше всего работают дети в классе и что им подойдёт, я выделю время на родительском собрании, поделюсь с вами рекомендациями для класса, вы можете решить, вам лучше купить индивидуально или вместе.

У меня в планах очень быстро собрать родительское собрание для нашего класса, чтобы познакомиться сразу, а также планировать дела в классе, не только

по списку, но и если есть вопросы по учебному процессу, по организации праздников. Мы вместе посмотрим, кто из родителей хотел бы отвечать за какую часть жизни класса, и тогда будет ясно что мы будем делать с классом, а что нет. Как вы к этому относитесь? Буду спрашивать вас ближе к пятнице когда у кого есть возможность. Лучше утром во время школы или после школы?